

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/613,252

Examiner

Zoila E. Cabrera

Applicant(s)

HRANICA ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment of 4/27/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-14, 17-22, 24-29 and 31.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                            |                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                           | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|                                                                                                            | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                               |

## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James A. Balazs on May 16, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 22, line 3, delete "(g)" and insert - - (h) - -.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-3, 5-14, 17-22, 24-29 and 31 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The allowability of the claims resides, at least in part, that the closest prior art of record **Kusmierczyk (US 6,502,294 B2)** and **McCulloch (US 5,193,662)** does not disclose or suggest, alone or in combination the step of:

As for independent claim 1, (c.) in response to the signal, interrupting the performance of the control routine at the end of the then current cycle and moving the selected workpiece from the selected one of the workstations to a quality control station; (d.) resuming the performance of the control routine (e.) inspecting the selected workpiece after step (d); (f.) determining whether the selected workpiece is acceptable; (g.) if the selected workpiece is acceptable, transporting the selected workpiece to an

output area; and (h.) interrupting the control routine at the end of the then current cycle and moving the selected workpiece from the quality control station to the output area (h1) informing the control routine that non-selected workpieces should not be delivered to the selected one of the workstations; and wherein step (h1) is performed between steps (c) and (d), in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 6, stamping the workpiece with a stamp indicating that the selected one of the workstations worked on the workpiece; and wherein step (i) is performed after step (h), in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 8, wherein the workstations are operable to generate and transmit call signals, and the control routine is operable to receive said call signals; and wherein the performance of the control routine causes the workpieces to be supplied to the workstations based on the chronological order of the control routine's receipt of the call signals from the workstations, whereby the workstation that transmits the first received call signal is supplied with a workpiece first, in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 14, (g.) if the first workpiece is not acceptable, moving the first workpiece from the quality control station directly to a third workstation using the autoloader; (h.) stamping the first workpiece with a stamp indicating that the first workstation worked on the first workpiece; and wherein step (h.) is performed after step (f.), in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 21, stamping the selected workpiece with a stamp indicating that the selected one of the workstations worked on the selected workpiece and wherein step (g) is performed after step (f), in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 24, wherein the workstations are operable to generate and transmit call signals, and the control routine is operable to receive said call signals; and wherein the control of the autoloader in accordance with the control routine causes the autoloader to supply the workpieces to the workstations based on the chronological order of the control routine's receipt of the call signals from the workstations, whereby the workstation that transmits the first received call signal is supplied with a workpiece first, in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 26, wherein the workstations are operable to generate and transmit call signals, and the first control routine is operable to receive said call signals from the workstations in the first zone and the second control routine is operable to receive said call signals from the workstations in the second zone; and wherein the control of the first autoloader in accordance with the first control routine causes the first autoloader to supply the workpieces to the workstations in the first zone based on the chronological order of the first control routine's receipt of the call signals from the workstations, whereby the workstation that transmits the first received call signal is supplied with a workpiece first; and wherein the control of the second autoloader in accordance with the second control routine causes the second autoloader to supply the workpieces to the workstations in the second zone based on the chronological order of

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the second control routine's receipt of the call signals from the workstations, whereby the workstation that transmits the first received call signal is supplied with a workpiece first, in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

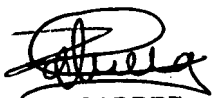
### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zoila E. Cabrera whose telephone number is 571-272-3738. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST (every other Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached on (571) 272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9600.

Zoila Cabrera  
Primary Examiner  
May 17, 2007

  
ZOILA CABRERA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
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5/17/07